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GENEVA FOR KRAUS ALSO
VIENNA FOR MBFR DELEGATION
MPT HELSINKI FOR SAVAGE
INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. THURSDAY FRIDAY PAPERS CONTINUE FEATURE WATERGATE, SKYLAB. INSIDE THURSDAY PAPERS REPORT GAINS IN VIENNA TALKS, FRIDAY PAPERS ADDING AGENDA MAPPED AT TALKS. THURSDAY NYTIMES WASHPOST HAVE AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO PROPOSED FRENCH A- TESTS. SAME FRIDAY PAPERS REPORT WORLD COURT SCHEDULES HEARING ON ATOM TESTS. LITTLE COMMENT.

2. VIENNA. THURSDAY NYTIMES AP REPORTS US SOVIET REPS AGREED SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF TALKS ON MUTUAL REDUCTION OF FORCES WOULD PAVE WAY FOR FURTHER RELAXATION OF TENSION. AP REPORTS DEAN SAID SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME WILL SURELY OPEN POSITIVE NEW CHAPTER IN EAST- WEST RELATIONS AND GREATLY IMPROVE SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, SOVIET DELEGATION CHIEF ADDING REDUCTION OF FORCES WOULD TURN EUROPE INTO FACTOR FOR STABLE PEACE. THURSDAY WASHSTAR UPI REPORTS NEGOTIATORS FINALLY GOT DOWN TO FIXING TIME PLACE AGENDA FOR MBFR;

PROBABLY TO TAKE PLACE IN SEPT OR OCT IN VIENNA, OFFICIALS

SAID. REMAINING ISSUE, SAYS UPI, IS NAME OF CONFERENCE, WARSAW PACT OBJECTING TO QUOTE BALANCED UNQUOTE. UPI SAYS NATO OFFICIALS UNCONCERNED THAT WARSAW STATES TAKE CREDIT FOR CALLING CONFERENCE, SAYING FACT THEY CLAIM IS FURTHER INDICATION THEY WANT CONFERENCE TO SUCCEED.

2 A. THURSDAY LATIMES COOK ADDS THAT, ACCORDING NATO SOURCE, NATO COUNTRIES DELIBERATELY AVOIDED MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE DURING SPEECH MAKING SESSIONS SO NOT TO GIVE AWAY ANY CARDS IN PRELIMINARY ROUND OF WORKING OUT AGENDA. COOK SAYS AGENDA CAN BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, SINCE IT WILL PRESUMABLY FIX FORCES AND AREAS TO BE AFFECTED BY NEGOTIATION, TYPES OF WEAPONS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONTROL VERIFICATION OF FORCE REDUCTIONS. WESTERN DELEGATES NOW HOPE PROGRESS WILL BE MORE BRISK, AGREEING ON AGENDA BY EARLY JUNE. SMALL STEP FORWARD, SAYS COOK WAS RUSSIAN DECISION
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TO GO ON RECORD ACCEPTING THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL DEAL FIRST OF ALL WITH CENTRAL EUROPE. NATO POWERS REGARD SOVIET POSITION OF LATER CONSIDERING PARTICIPATION OF OTHER EUROPEAN STATES AS COMPLETE NONSTARTER BUT PROBABLY ONLY SOVIET PROPAGANDA.

2 B. FRIDAY BALTSUN AP REPORTS DELEGATES IN VIENNA YESTER-

DAY BEGAN CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS TO WORK OUT AGENDA FOR FULL- SCALE CONFERENCE EXPECTED HELD THIS FALL, AP SAYING NEXT SESSION TO BE HELD NEXT WEEK. WASHPOST BRIEF ADDS ALLIED OFFICIALS DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILS OF WESTERN ALLIES' PROPOSED AGENDA FOR TALKS.

3. FRENCH TESTS. THURSDAY NYTIMES, MELBOURNE AP REPORTS AUSTRALIAN POSTAL WORKERS UNION REFUSED HANDLE MOST COMMUNICATIONS WITH FRANCE PROTESTING FRENCH PLANS TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTING IN SOUTH PACIFIC, BOYCOTT EXTENDING TO FRENCH EMBASSY AND CONSULATES, BUT NOT COVERING MAIL PROTESTING EXPLOSIONS. UNION REJECTED APPEAL FROM WHITLAM, ACCORDING AP, WHO CONTENDED PROTEST WOULD BREACH AUSTRALIA' S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND PREJUDICE AUSTRALIA' S REQUEST TO INTERNATIONAL COURT FOR INJUNCTION AGAINST TESTS. WASHPOST BRIEF ADDS FRANCE SAID IT WOULD REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE COMPETENCE OF INTERNATIONAL COURT TO RULE ON AUSTRALIA' S MOTIONS.

3 A. FRIDAY NYTIMES, THE HAGUE, REUTERS REPORTS INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE ANNOUNCED IT WILL BEGIN HEARING MONDAY ON AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PROTESTS OVER FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS. ACCORDING REUTER, WORLD COURT ANNOUNCEMENT SAID FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN NETHERLANDS INFORMED COURT BY

LETTER THAT FRANCE DID NOT CONSIDER COURT COMPETENT, ASKING COURT TO REMOVE CASE FROM LISTS. FRIDAY WASHPOST, THE HAGUE, REUTER ADDS AFFILIATED MEMBERS OF AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS SHUT DOWN MOST COMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM FRANCE, BLOCKED FRENCH IMPORTS AND REFUSED TO SERVICE FRENCH SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. FRIDAY NYTIMES PARIS, SPECIAL TRAILER REPORTS FRANCE HAS MADE CLEAR SHE IS DETERMINED TO CONTINUE NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM DESPITE MOUNTING PRESSURES FROM COUNTRIES BORDERING PACIFIC, ADD-
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ING NO DATE YET ANNOUNCED FOR THIS YEAR' S TEST SERIES. STORY SAYS THERE HAS BEEN PERSISTENT TALK OF CHANGING TO UNDERGROUND TESTS BUT DEFENSE SOURCES INDICATE TECHNIQUE MAY NOT BE PERFECTED FOR FEW MORE YEARS. HYDROGEN BOMB MISSILES SAID TO BE IN PRODUCTION AND DUE FOR PLACEMENT ABOARD SUBMARINES IN 1976. SEVERAL FRENCH COMMENTATORS MADE POINT, ACCORDING STORY, THAT AUSTRALIA ALLOWED BRITAIN TO TEST NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON AUSTRALIAN TERRITORY AND QUESTIONED PRESENT OBJECTIONS TO TESTS ON FRENCH ISLAND.

4. SALT. THURSDAY WASHSTAR COMMENTS BREAKTHROUGH IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE JUSTIFICATION ENOUGH FOR BREZHNEV NIXON MEETING BECAUSE OF WORLD' S STAKE IN REDUC-

TION OF NUCLEAR PERIL. STAR EXPECTS MEETING TO FURTHER
GENERAL CAUSE OF US SOVIET DETENTE UNLESS CONGRESS STRIKES
SOUR NOTE IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BY DENYING MFN TREAT-
MENT TO SOVIETS, AND JEWS DECIDE TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST
BREZHNEV. RUSH

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